

# 'The Columbia is lost'



As the tragic events of Feb. 1, 2003, unfolded in the Mission Control Center, the assembled team remained calm, even as they were called upon to react instantaneously to a disaster that rocked the entire world.

Despite the unimaginable pressure placed upon them in those painful moments, the MCC team put their own grief aside to handle the situation's enormity with the utmost professionalism and integrity.

The *Roundup* recognizes the skilled men and women of the Mission Control Center who were unwavering in their strength.

Thank you team for your dedication in the face of tragedy. We are proud of you!



**ABOVE:** A flight controller stares at the trajectory screen, which stops in Texas where mission control lost tracking data.

**CENTER:** A contingency plan was activated when MCC personnel realized the STS-107 crew was no longer able to communicate with them.

**RIGHT:** At a press conference several hours after the *Columbia* accident, the faces of Milt Heflin, Chief of the Flight Director Office, and Mr. Dittmore share their emotion over the NASA family's loss with a national TV audience.

